

Wilmington DISTRICT NEWS

Volume 22, Number 1

January - February 2002



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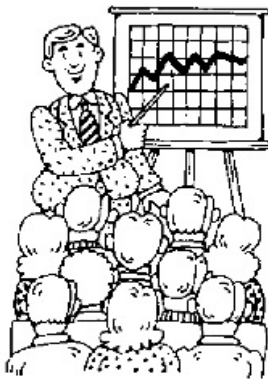
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Speaking Out



Wilmington District Lock Master **Robin Hall** conducted a discussion and tour of Lock #1 for 25 Campbell University Environmental Science students. Hall demonstrated how fish are moved upstream through the locks and he answered questions about environmental impacts, silt buildup, fish habitat and water aeration.

Biologist **Jeff Richter** spoke to the Cape Fear Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation. He discussed the Mason Inlet regulatory permit requirements for protecting the environment.

Biologist **Bill Adams** gave a presentation to the Coastal Management class at UNC-Wilmington. He reviewed the history of Southeastern North Carolina civil works projects and answered questions about environmental impacts.

Congratulations to **Tom Ferrell**, Biologist in the Wilmington Regulatory Field Office for winning the quarterly safety slogan contest.



Cover Photo: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers vessel WHEELER is one of the largest hopper dredges in the nation. See story on page 6. (Photo courtesy of New Orleans District)

Progress Despite Low Water

By Penny Schmitt



Low water levels at John H. Kerr Reservoir make an easy job of repairing and extending ten boat ramps.



Receding water revealed a sunken boat, probably put into the lake 15 to 20 years ago by locals to create a fishing bed. The boat is a potential safety hazard and was removed.



A backhoe removes old dock pylons that could not be reached with water at normal levels. Here, water level is nine feet below normal.

Contractors supporting the John H. Kerr Dam and Reservoir are following the old farmer's adage to "make hay while the sun shines." Seemingly unending dry, sunny weather has lowered water levels on Kerr Lake leaving marinas, swim beaches, boat ramps and other lake features exposed for the first time in months or years.

"Those conditions make it easy to do work that would be impossible without these dry conditions," said Terry Ramsey, Acting Operations Manager. "We are taking advantage of a bad situation by getting a lot of jobs done that would otherwise be more costly."

According to Ramsey and Ranger Eric Edwardson, contractors are using these drought-ridden times to do work that will make Kerr Lake safer, cleaner, more accessible, and more user friendly for years to come.

"We are extending boat ramps, so that the lake will continue to be accessible at low water," Ramsey said. "This year we plan to lengthen about ten ramps." According to Edwardson, contractors have made a good beginning. Ramps are now longer at Bluestone, Rudd's Creek Day Use Area, North Bend, Longwood, and Grassy Creek. "It is much more efficient to do the work now. There's no need to build a cofferdam and pump the water away from the area. Workers can simply prepare the ground and pour concrete," Edwardson said.

Swim beaches are also more accessible for clean up. "We are able to clear the bottom of rock, glass, cans and other debris," Ramsey said. "This year we probably won't need to have divers go down to examine the bottom, because it's exposed. We are also placing new depth markers and other signs at the beaches."

Large pieces of debris and obstacles exposed by lower water can also be more easily removed. "We have taken out some old railroad track near Clarksville, Virginia that we think might date back to the construction of the lake," Edwardson said. "We have also been able to remove a sunken boat, old telephone poles, and debris from old docks."

"We are all hoping for plenty of rain," Ramsey said. "We would like to see the lake back at a higher level. We don't control Mother Nature, but we do control our operations and maintenance program. While this dry weather lasts, we're doing all we can to make Kerr Lake a cleaner, safer, more accessible place for people to enjoy in the future." ▲

February is African

The Roots

By Penny Schmitt



Reverend Freddie Barnes was introduced by Renita McNeill (IM).

District Honors MLK

More than 100 Wilmington District TEAM members gathered for breakfast to honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to revisit the principles of equality and peace that were the cornerstones of Dr. King's work.

Reverend Freddie Barnes, pastor of the First African American Baptist Church in Goldsboro, was the guest speaker. "Issues of equality should be on our minds every single day, not just one day each year," said Reverend Barnes.

Several TEAM members pitched in to make the event a big success. Contracting Specialist Cheryl Parks served as Mistress of Ceremony. Julius James (PAO) gave an inspirational invocation and Renita McNeill (IM) introduced the guest speaker. Other members of the committee who supported the event were Coleman Long (PM), Major George Shepard, Pat Hargrove (IM), Daniel Emerson (TS-EC), Lisa Hetherman (PM), Rolando Serrano (TS-CM), Diane Boswell (LM), Elaine Hayes (OP-N), Gloria Price (OP), Annie Scott (CT-S) and Beverly Deering (EEO).

District Deputy for Program and Project Management, Eugene Tickner, presented Reverend Barnes with a plaque of appreciation.▲



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In the early to mid-19th century, shallow-draft, flat-bottomed boats called bateaux, oftentimes crewed entirely by African-American slaves, plied the Dan River. The boats used a network of sluices and altered Native

back upstream. Yet shallow water navigation was the best, cheapest way to move goods in the decades before the nation's railroad network developed.

Dr. Lindley S. Butler, Professor



Slink Sluice is an 800-foot-long, current-directing structure, which was completed in 1889 by S. T. Abert, Engineer in Charge for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

American fish dams that served to deepen the river channel just enough to accommodate their one-foot draft.

In an age of tractor trailers and superhighways, it's hard to imagine that tributary rivers would be the most effective route for transporting bales of cotton, tobacco, wood products, and barrels down to the Albemarle Sound or Norfolk from 200 miles in the interior, and carrying other goods--including luxury items like pianos--

Emeritus of History at Rockingham Community College and Chairman of the North Carolina Marine History Council, has been studying navigation history and structures along the Dan River and Roanoke River in Virginia and North Carolina for 20 years. He explained his findings to Wilmington District TEAM members who continue to manage projects today in the Roanoke River Basin, including the John H. Kerr Reservoir.

New Members to the District



Michael Bolduc, Co-op, Environmental Resources. Michael is an Environmental Studies major at UNC-Wilmington. He is a four-year veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps where he served as a Corrections Specialist. Michael earned an Associate's Degree in General Studies from Cape Fear Community College. He is originally from Saratoga Springs, NY.



David Hunter, Facilities Maintenance Supervisor, Engineer Yard. After 20 years with the U.S. Coast Guard -- five tours aboard a ship and two tours on land, Dave retired as a Chief Machinery Technician. He worked 15 of the 20 years as a U.S. Navy hardhat diver. Dave and his wife, Kim, have a 16-year-old daughter named Megan. They are from, and continue to reside in, Watha, N.C.



David Marriner, Power Plant Mechanic, John H. Kerr. Dave comes to the Wilmington District after a career in the U.S. Navy. His last duty station was Kings Bay Submarine Base in Georgia where he worked as Supervisor of the Engraving and Machine Shop. Dave and his wife, Karen, have two children. Dave is originally from Jamesville, NC.



Douglas Piatkowski, Co-op, Environmental Studies. Douglas is pursuing a Master's Degree in Marine Biology at UNC-Wilmington, where he also earned a Bachelor's Degree in the same field. Douglas is conducting research on the biology of nesting Sea Turtles on Masonboro Island. He worked three years for the National Marine Fisheries Service as a port sampler. Douglas is engaged to marry Britan Bies in May of 2003.



Kirstie Stokes, Automation Assistant, Personnel. Kirstie comes to the Wilmington District after working as an Administration Assistant for Pathways Alternative Learning Center. Kirstie is a student at Shaw University where she is working towards a B.S. in Business Administration with a minor in Public Administration. She lives in Burgaw with her 7-year-old daughter, Danielle.



Thomas Farrell, Biologist, Wilmington Regulatory Office. Tom joined the Wilmington TEAM after two years with the Corps Tampa Regulatory Office. Tom's background includes four years in the U.S. Navy, 10 years as a marine science educator and 10 years as an environmental regulator with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection. Tom earned a Master's Degree in Biology from Florida Atlantic University.



Phillip Pride, Co-op, Safety and Occupational Health. Phillip is enrolled at North Carolina A&T University working on his B.S. in Occupational Safety and Health. He is a member of the American Society of Safety Engineers and the National Society of Black Engineers. Phillip worked with Fluor Daniels Construction as a heat stress monitor and the U.S. Air Force as a Safety and Health Specialist. He is from Burlington, NC.



Randy Briley, Deckhand Floater, Dredge FRY. In addition to working on the FRY, Ray is the 6-year owner/operator of Lady George Charters, an ocean fishing charter service based in Swansboro. He is a Licensed Master Captain. Ray also worked as a landscape contractor and served on the state board for the Landscape Contractors Association. He served 6 years in the National Guard. Ray and his wife, Peggy, have two adult children.



Kelley Kaltenbach, Co-op, Geotech. Kelley is a graduate student at UNC-Wilmington where he is earning his Master's Degree in Geology. He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Geology from Ohio State University. Kelley recently received his commission in the Army National Guard, Armor Branch. He served 4 years as an enlisted MP. Bicycle racing is Kelly's favorite hobby.



Francis Ferrell, Ranger Co-op, Falls Lake. Francis is working towards a Bachelor's Degree in Parks and Recreation Management at NC State University. Prior to working with the Corps, Francis spent a summer as an Assistant Park Ranger at Umstead State Park and he also worked for NC State University Campus Security.



Retiree News

By Bob Swart

There were six folks in attendance at our monthly Corps Retiree Luncheon: Ken Old, Bob Doetsch, Joe Lewis, Eric Matzke, my wife Bettye and me.

Most of the conversation around the table, of course, was about the good 'ole days when we had to rough it during inclement weather. I kept waiting for one of those stories about walking five miles to school in twelve inches of snow with no shoes to wear, but they disappointed me. Everybody said that they had a very nice holiday season with lots of food and family.

I got a call from Dan Grimsley letting me know he wouldn't be at the lunch meeting. After all, he had to come in from way out there in the country. Max Grimes called later to let me know he had suffered from one of those senior moments and "clean forgot to come." He seemed embarrassed, since he had made a special point the Sunday before to remind Joe Lewis to attend.

Bob Doetsch let us know that he had his 83rd birthday and that he had been married 58 years. We all congratulated him. Betty and Eric Matzke will be in the travel mode once again in February as they set off on a trip to San Juan to catch a cruise to the southern Caribbean and Venezuela. I suspect the travel agents like to see Eric walk through their door.

We were all concerned to learn that Pat Tyndall is at Duke Hospital after having a mini-stroke. Also, Allen Grimstead is at New Hanover Memorial Hospital with a serious infection. Andy Duncan's wife, Sieglende, has been very ill of late and is now on life support. On January 4th, we received bad news that Joe Tanner was in a fatal one-car accident, apparently the result of a heart attack. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all these folks and to their loved ones.

We hope the new year will be a good one. Come join us for lunch every first Thursday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the Pier 20 Restaurant on College Road in Wilmington.▲

Corps Retiree Endows NCSU

By Christine Bruske

Corps of Engineers Retiree Alfred P. Norwood endowed a \$25,000 gift to the North Carolina State University (NCSU) Chapter of Chi Epsilon, the only national civil engineering honor society. Income from the endowment will cover many of the organization's operating costs. More importantly, the endowment will allow the chapter to recognize students for their scholarly achievement without asking them to pay for the honor.

"My primary goal in making the endowment was to defer the \$50 initiation fee," said Norwood. "Chi Epsilon has the 'the cream of the crop' - the very best civil engineering students. I don't want a \$50 fee to keep a good student from joining Chi Epsilon."

Jim Nau, Faculty Advisor to NCSU Chi Epsilon, said the endowment is "a dream come true" for the chapter. "I expect that our chapter will become more active and visible within the Department of Civil Engineering and the College of Engineering."

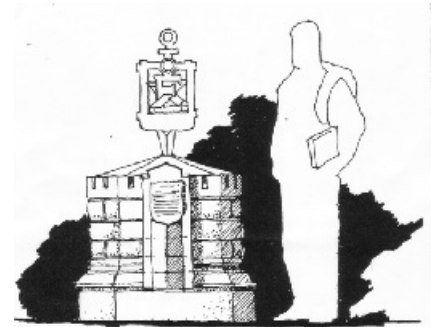
Norwood established, and was the first president of, Chi Epsilon at NCSU. He received his BSCE in 1949 and has been a registered professional engineer in North Carolina since 1954.

For 24 years, Norwood worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as Chief of Sanitation Engineering in Wilmington North Carolina, in Iran, and finally in the Corps headquarters in Washington DC. Most recently, he worked for the firm of Rose and Purcell, Inc., where his efforts focused on solid waste management, resource recovery, and hydropower generation.

Norwood's generous donation made the NCSU chapter of Chi Epsilon the first of 123 chapters nationwide to be endowed. The chapter has been renamed "The A.P. Norwood Chapter of Chi Epsilon" in recognition of Norwood's generous contribution.

After making his donation, Norwood challenged other founding members of the fraternity to match his contribution. "North Carolina State University is leading the pack," said Norwood. "I hope we're setting a trend for other civil engineering programs."

In addition to raising money for the endowment, Norwood is now soliciting support for the construction of a monument, which will eventually grace the Centennial Campus of



NCSU. "The monument will draw attention to the fact that Chi Epsilon exists and that we are doing something to support civil engineering students and the profession," Norwood said.

Wilmington District TEAM members and retirees can obtain information about donating to Chi Epsilon and the monument fund by contacting the Public Affairs Office.▲



Left to Right: Downey Brill, professor and head of civil engineering at NCSU; Jim Nau, NCSU professor of civil engineering and Chi Epsilon faculty advisor; A.P. Norwood; and Kim Grau, president of the A.P. Norwood Chapter of Chi Epsilon.



Congratulations to Alverta Sandy (IM) on the birth of her granddaughter, Olivia Paige Sandy. Olivia was born at the healthy weight of 6 lbs. 15 oz. to James Daniel Sandy III and Jana Fuller Sandy.



Keith Tingley, son of Sarah Tingley (RM), was chosen by his Phi Kappa Psi fraternity to serve as an “alpha group leader” at the prestigious Woodrow Wilson Leadership School in Dayton, Ohio. Keith is a senior at East Carolina University, double majoring in Political Science and Communications.



Congratulations to Civil Engineering Technician Jim Jacaruso on the publication of his paper “Hurricanes and Snow: A Common Occurrence in Eastern North Carolina” in The North Carolina Geographer. Jim co-authored the paper with Dr. Douglas Gamble and Dr. Michael Benedetti, both of UNC-Wilmington.

Kudos to Donna Dennis, wife of Robert Dennis Chief Forester at John H. Kerr Reservoir. Donna spent a week with Southern Baptist Convention volunteers from across the country who cleaned near-ground zero apartments following the September 11th terrorist attacks. Volunteers in protective masks, suits, gloves and hats cleaned thick dust from walls, ceilings and furniture, bagged clothes for laundering, and helped residents return to their homes.

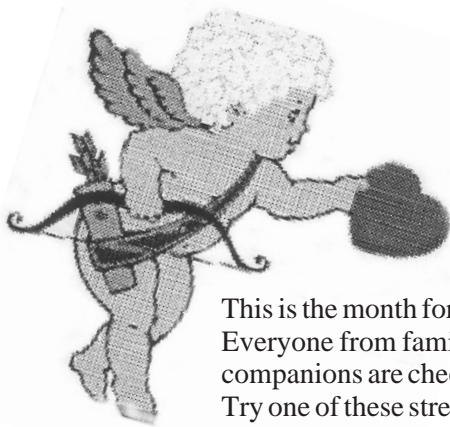
Several John H. Kerr TEAM members are plenty proud of their kids who, as members of the Park View High School marching band, were invited to be part of inauguration ceremonies for Virginia's new Governor Mark Warner. Kim Carroll, daughter of Rick Carroll, played the xylophone. Jennifer Dedad, daughter of Kevin Dedad, and Paula Lawson, daughter of Raymond Lawson, were in the color guard. Katie Conner, daughter of Clarence Conner, played the mellophone. Wesley Storm, son of Sherrie Storm, played the trumpet (pictured 3rd from right).



Congratulations to John H. Kerr Powerhouse Electrical Engineer Steve Jones for passing the Professional Engineer's Exam in the state of Virginia.▲



Corps Family News

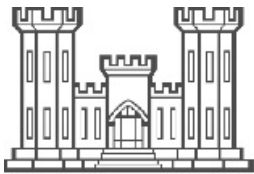


Be good to yourself . . .

This is the month for hearts, flowers, and chocolate . . . And how about a little stress relief to go along with that? Everyone from family members to co-workers knows that the weather at home and in the office is sunnier if our companions are cheerful and content. There's a lot you can do to contribute to your own 'good weather.' Try one of these stress relievers and lighten up the winter blahs

- © *SMILE.* It's scientific. A smile relaxes your face and your whole body.
- © *Fill your tank!* Knowing that you won't run out of gas actually cuts stress.
- © *Call a friend and chat.* **Two** people will feel better!
- © *Take a walk.* A little mild exercise is unbelievably better than none.
- © *Shed some guilt.* Get rid of the top item on your procrastination list!
- © *Do a good deed daily.* Don't tell anyone what you did, just feel good about yourself.
- © *Chill out for two minutes.* Shut your eyes. Take a few deep, slow breaths.
- © *Be here, now.* Focus on the present moment and stay in it. Let other worries go.
- © *Count your blessings.* Start with "I am grateful for . . . " and just keep going.
- © *Get a haircut.* Amazing what that little bit of personal care can do for you!

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